

CLARK COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

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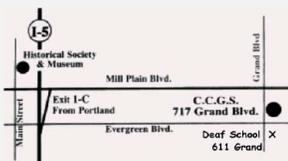
NO APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Since this year's Spring Seminar and the April General Meeting would have fallen in the same week, the General Meeting has been canceled. The next General Meeting will be May 25.

Carol Clark, our VP and chair of the seminar on May 1 still needs some help. She has asked for donations of cookies for break time; help with registration beginning at 8:30; stuffing the packet envelopes and just general assistance. If you would like to help, please contact Carol by email at cclark6446 at comcast.net or leave a message on the phone at the library - 360-750-5688.

REMINDER - if you haven't made your reservation yet for the seminar, please do it soon.

CCGS Library
717 Grand Blvd
Vancouver, WA
360-750-5688
gensoc at ccgs-wa.org
Hours of operation



Closed Sunday & Monday
*Check the on-line
library calendar
for unexpected closures.*

Tues, Wed & Thurs:
10:00am to 4:30 pm

Friday
10 am to 3 pm

Saturday
2nd & 3rd Saturdays only
10 am to 3 pm

How to get here:
From I-5, take the Mill Plain exit, go east about 1 ½ miles to Grand Blvd and turn right. We are in the strip mall on the left side, north of Evergreen.

REPORT FROM THE CCGS NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The CCGS Nominating Committee met on February 8, 2010, to develop a slate of candidates for offices for 2010-2012.

The following slate will be presented at the General Meeting of CCGS on March 23, 2010. The election will be held at the General Meeting on May 25, 2010. At that time, additional nominations may be made from the floor if persons so nominated have agreed to serve if elected.

The Committee nominates the following, all of whom have agreed to serve if elected:

PRESIDENT: STEVE CORNICK

TREASURER: LARRY GERMANN

SECRETARY: SHERRY WARREN

Nominating Committee:
Chairman, Richard Engstrom
Alice Allen
Jane Germann
Bill Whalley
Marian Thompson

NARA and the 2010 Census

Paul Wester, head of the Modern Records Programs at NARA

Posted to the NARAations Blog at <http://blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access/?p=1192>

Portions of the genealogical community are under the impression that the 2010 Decennial Census forms will not be preserved by the NARA. This impression is mistaken.

NARA has not officially received and registered a proposed records retention schedule from the Census Bureau for the 2010 census. (A records retention schedule is required when agencies propose the disposition of Federal records, in any form.) However, NARA staff members have been holding preliminary discussions with the Census Bureau about a draft retention schedule for records of the 2010 census.

The 2010 census is planned as an all-electronic census, which will affect the format in which permanent records are preserved. The Census Bureau will scan the respondent questionnaires as part of its business process for compiling the census. The draft schedule calls for the permanent retention of the scanned digital images. These scanned images are the 21st century equivalent to the microfilm copies of census forms generated for previous decennial censuses.

In addition, the Census Bureau is also proposing permanent retention for the unedited file containing response data, with linkage information to the scanned images. This means that once the census is opened to the public 72 years from the enumeration date of the 2010 census, genealogists will have two means of searching for their ancestors. They can search the database, which will contain all the data (including names and addresses) from the respondent forms. They can also use the database to locate and retrieve images of the forms themselves.

Once the Census Bureau submits the final schedule and the records have been appraised by NARA, NARA will publish notice of the schedule in the Federal Register, enabling the public to obtain and comment on the schedule. In the meantime, NARA will continue to work closely with the Census Bureau to ensure that the schedule meets the needs of genealogists and other researchers who will make use of information and data from the census.

SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CENSUS QUESTIONS

Stephanie Weiner, Reference Librarian, San Diego, CA

I have just received my census form for 2010, and it raises several issues in my mind:

- 1) The form stipulates only that Person 1 must be an adult – not necessarily “head of household.” This may be a problem for genealogists in future times.
- 2) The form contains space for 6 full responses. Should there be 7 or more persons residing at that address, the Census Bureau indicates that it “may” telephone for additional information. If complete information is not gathered for persons 7+, there may not be an indication of their precise relationship to Person 1, as the form itself asks only if Persons 7+ are “related to Person 1.”
- 3) Even if the Census Bureau telephones and gathers the additional information, how is that information to be preserved? If only the original paper forms are scanned, what happens to the additional information for Persons 7 and following? This is of especial interest in regards to the relationship between Person 1 and Persons 7+.

Books About the Revolutionary War

By Lethene Parks



CCGS Membership Chairman Patricia LaRock recently recommended the book ***Paul Revere's Ride*** by David Hackett Fischer. I liked what she wrote and bought a copy of the book for myself. In the "Introduction" Mr. Fischer talks about contingency and defines it as "something that may or may not happen." Contingency, he says, "is central to any historical process and vital to the success of our narrative strategies about the past." He advocates that we "study historical events as a series of real choices that living people actually made" and that we need to "look at the cultures within which those choices are made. Only by reconstructing that sort of contingency can we hope to know what it was like to have been there."

This got me to thinking about books about the Revolutionary War. There are many. Here are the ones that are on my own bookshelf and the reasons why:

Almost a Miracle: The American Victory in the War of Independence, by John Ferling. Oxford University Press, 2007.

I wanted a good one-volume history of the Revolutionary War and this is the one I chose from among several possibilities. It is an excellent and comprehensive military history of the Revolution by a seasoned historian of early America. He is also the author of a companion volume, ***A Leap in the Dark***, which is a political history of the Revolutionary War.

1776, by David McCullough. Simon and Schuster, 2005.

A Pulitzer Prize winning history of the first year of the War for Independence, by an author who is not only an insightful historian but also a great story teller. I've always liked his work and was a fan of his television show "American Experience." General Nathanael Greene of Rhode Island features prominently in the book and is of special interest to me because his aunt was one of my husband's ancestors.

Arundel, by Kenneth Roberts. Doubleday, 1956 (first published in 1929).

A fascinating historical novel about Benedict Arnold's 1775 campaign to Quebec and attempt to defeat the British there. The book's main character, Steven Nason, is based on my ancestor, Joseph C. Weston and his son Stephen, who guided Arnold's army around Norridgewock Falls and Skowhegan Falls in Maine. As a result Joseph Weston caught a severe cold and died on 16 October 1775 at the age of 43. Two other novels by Kenneth Roberts, ***Rabble in Arms*** and ***Oliver Wiswell*** are also set during the Revolutionary War. I first read these books back in the 1940s, before I began a serious study of family history. *Arundel* has been out of print for years, but a friend in Arizona had a copy and gave it to me.

The Day It Rained Militia: Huck's Defeat and the Revolution in the South Carolina Backcountry, May-July 1780, by Michael C. Scoggins. History Press, 2005.

My daughter and I learned of this battle on a research trip to South Carolina in 2006, visited the battlefield, and learned that two of the Patriot soldiers who played important roles in the battle were brothers of our ancestor. When we met the author in the local public library, where we had gone to do some research, and learned about the book, of course we purchased it.

The Patriots at Kings Mountain, by Bobby Gilmer Moss. Scotia-Hibernia Press, 1990; ***The Overmountain Men***, by Pat Alderman. The Overmountain Press, 1970; ***Kings Mountain and Its Heroes***, by Lyman C. Draper. Reprint: the Overmountain Press, 1996 (first published in 1881).

After researching in North Carolina and South Carolina and visiting the Kings Mountain battlefield site, I purchased these three books to provide a more detailed understanding of this crucial 1780 Revolutionary War battle and to help identify those who fought in it. Patriot soldiers who fought in this battle included two of my direct ancestors and at least 12-14 collateral relatives.

The Spirit of Seventy-Six: The Story of the American Revolution As Told By Participants, edited by Henry Steele Commager and Richard B. Morris. DaCapo Press ed., 1995 (first published 1958).

First-hand accounts are always valuable and this collection contains all sorts of tidbits of information about the Revolution from contemporary letters, diaries, speeches and recollections. For example, excerpts from the journal of Abner Stocking, a private in Benedict Arnold's army, describe the passage around Skowhegan Falls and Norridgewock Falls. There are several selections by Nathanael Greene, and there is an entire section on the Battle of Kings Mountain.

For meetup information, please see:
<http://www.ccg-s-wa.org/meetup.pdf>

HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEW LINE ON YOUR DUES RENEWAL FORM ?

Pat LaRock, Membership Chairman

It says "Extra Donation_____". You can help our Genealogical Society meet its \$\$\$ obligations by "rounding up" your dues! Even if just a few of us can see our way clear to add \$5, \$10 (or even more) to our dues, it will really help keep us in the black without our having to raise the annual dues for everyone. Many this year have signed up for "joint" memberships (adding spouses or offspring), which also helps the organization. Thank you!

WELCOME!

Welcome, New Members Lynda Maguire and Curtis R. Neal
Welcome Back, Reinstated Members Jerry Olson and Judith Heath

COMPUTER CLINIC

In response to popular demand, we will hold a FREE Computer Clinic on Monday, April 5, beginning at 1:00 PM. This is the same day as the Legacy Users Group meeting (held from 10:00 to 12:00). The clinic is open to all CCGS members.

WHAT WILL WE DO? We will attempt to answer your questions and solve your computer-related problems. We speak Windows, Mac, and Linux. Bring your questions and, if possible and appropriate, your computers, power strips, and any installation disks we might need.

NO GUARANTEES. We can't promise to help. We can't even promise not to make things worse. But if you are up against it, why not give us a try?

WE DON'T KNOW IT ALL. If you don't have any computer problems, come anyway. Chances are that you can help out someone else.

WHO ARE WE? Bill Whalley, Steve Cornick, and Steve Aberle, and others to be named in the future.

MORE INFORMATION? Contact Bill Whalley - wgwhalley at gmail.com

THANKSGIVING IS WHEN?

Carol Clark, Co-Vice President

I am one of the lucky ones who has family letters. I was recently transcribing a letter written in 1865 in which my g-g-aunt was talking about getting ready for Thanksgiving. That was fine, until I realized that the letter was written November 30. As far as I can remember, Thanksgiving has always been in November. It never dawned on me that it wasn't always that way. I did a Google search and found a website, <http://festivals.iloveindia.com/thanks-giving/presidential/after-lincoln/1865.html> that informed me that President Andrew Johnson had written a proclamation that made Thanksgiving the first Thursday of December in 1865, which was December 7. (1865 was the ONLY year where Thanksgiving was celebrated in December. Prior to 1862 it was in April.) Just to be sure, I checked one of my favorite websites for dates, <http://www.timeanddate.com/> I know there are a lot of sites that will give you dates for various years, but I started using this one at work to print out a calendar for a whole year. In the Calendar column you can select any year. I put in 1865 and got a calendar for the whole year. At the bottom the holidays were listed; sure enough, it said that Thanksgiving was December 7 in 1865. Not only did I confirm the date of Thanksgiving for that year, I also learned about history. What fun!

Book Review

William Whalley

Google Your Family Tree, Unlock the Hidden Power of Google, by Daniel M. Lynch, Family-link.com, Inc., Provo, UT, 2008, 340pp

It's all about filtering. Nearly everyone has used Google for their genealogy research. Nearly everyone has typed the name of their target ancestor into the search box and gotten waaaaay too many hits. This book is about how to reduce the number of hits to a manageable number and still get what you want. The trick is to craft the Google search term using Google's search qualifier tools.

To use the author's example, searching for Lynch gave 42,000,000 hits, but searching for "eugene * lynch" family connecticut ~genealogy waterbury OR bridgeport brought the number of hits down to 8. If this search is too restrictive, then use Google to search for related sites or change your search terms.

I had a hard time reviewing this book. I kept wanting to try out the techniques right away; then I would get lost following interesting links. Although the book is aimed at genealogists, the filtering techniques illustrated are general. Not much of the book is specifically aimed at genealogy-related searches.

Should you read this book? Yes. You will certainly learn how to be more effective at using Google, whether for genealogy or not. Should you buy this book? Well, it is a typical computer book, high priced (\$35 list), with large page margins, lots of screen shots and lots of redundant information. My preference would be to borrow it (Jane Germann has kindly donated her copy to the CCGS library—look for it to be available soon).

Or, you can get a preview of many of the techniques used in the book by visiting the book's web site, <http://www.googleyourfamilytree.com/>. Check out the Genealogy Power Search and Google Tips Blog links from that page. Another site I recommend for learning the nuances of Google search is <http://www.googleguide.com>, however that site does not deal specifically with genealogy. Good hunting!

New Additions to our Library Shelves

Compiled by Alice Aultman Allen

The following books are new to our shelves, and will be found on the "New Shelf" during the month of April:

All donated by the CCGS Research and Preservation Committee Cut and Paste work groups:

Clark County Cemeteries, Consolidated Index vol. 1-8

Clark County, Washington, 1999 Obituaries from the Columbian Newspaper, Index

Clark County, Washington, 1999 Obituaries from the Columbian Newspaper, vol. 1 and 2

Clark County, Washington, 2003 Obituaries & Other Vitals, Index

Clark County, Washington, 2003 Obituaries & Other Vitals, vol. 1 and 2

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

Gene Kuechmann

Saturday, March 20, was a beautiful day. Even so, I resisted the temptation to "goof off" and instead drove out to the LDS Family History Center on 18th Street. Barbara Hovorka was speaking at a seminar there on two topics of interest to me: *Out on the Web: What is New on the Internet* and *Out of the Mainstream: Hidden Sources and Records*. I wasn't sure I'd learn much about the Internet – after all, I have been an avid user of the 'net for years – but was I ever wrong! I not only learned more effective ways of searching, I also learned of better genealogy sites than some I have been using. And if I now go to some of the "Hidden Sources" Barbara revealed, maybe I'll find some of the "Hidden Ancestors" who have been evading me for so long. **I can't urge you strongly enough – come to the CCGS Spring Seminar May 1. You won't be sorry!**

For the seminar flyer and other information included in the mailed copy on pages 7 & 8, please refer to this URL:

<http://www.ccg-s-wa.org/p4307.htm>

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<http://www.ccgswa.org/p4307.htm>

RESEARCH AND PRESERVATION

Jane Germann

Cut and Paste next month will be Monday, April 19, from 10 to about 2 at the Annex.

This month the "Cut and Pasters" were Gaydena Thompson, Lillian Fullerton, Darla Brock, Flo Marticello, and Jane Germann, but not much cutting and pasting was done because we used the time to organize. Gaydena copied a couple of months of obits, the next step in getting them ready to index. Lillian and Darla worked on paging a year and finding missing days to look up at the library, making the records ready for copying. Flo came in and took some work home. Come on down on Monday, April 19, and find a job suitable to your skills. (And thanks, DeAnn Wilson for completing the tax list that will go into the *Trail Breakers*.)

THE QUILT: HONORING PAST WORKERS

Do you remember someone who worked hard to make a difference at CCGS in past years? Someone who may not be so active any more, or who may have a memorial book in the Library, but not on the CCGS Quilt? We need help identifying the hard workers from our past. An anonymous donor has requested that books in their honor be added to the Quilt. We will be making a "new shelf" to accommodate names. Elinor Perlich, Pat LaRock, Pat Bauer, Sandy Thompson, and Jane Germann are the committee overseeing this project. You can nominate a person by e-mailing the chairman, Jane, at: germann@wa-net.com. Thanks for helping us with this awesome task.

TRAIL BREAKERS: Have a story to tell?

Do you have a story to share about a research problem? Did you finally get past a brick wall? Or are you working on one right now? Can you create a paragraph or perhaps a page about your story? Or, do you have a Clark County Pioneer you have found information on and have a story to tell about them? Send your story to be published in the *Trail Breakers* to germann@wa-net.com Subject: Trail Breakers.

COME JOIN THE LIBRARIANS

We welcome two new librarians: Elaine Fletcher and Lynda Maguire. They join a diverse team working to share their expertise with one another as well as with the general public.

Consider joining the librarian team to:

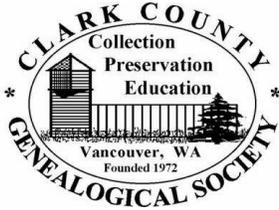
- ❖ meet other persons interested in genealogy
- ❖ share your knowledge with other persons
- ❖ aid drop-ins doing their own research
- ❖ explain the extensive resources at CCGS
- ❖ do your own research, as time permits

To join or ask for more information contact Kara Lynn Rankin at KL-Rankin@comcast.net or call 360-901-5331.

The library operating hours are Tuesdays-Thursdays 10-4:30, Fridays 10-3, 2nd and 3rd Saturdays 10-3. Two librarians are scheduled each day.

TRAINING UPDATE:

Twenty-eight librarians attended a two-hour training session on February 22. Alice Allen shared her expertise with Readerware, Bill Whalley gave information on the society's computers, Lethene Parks & Elinor Perlich exhibited a few of the library's books and periodicals, Pat Bauer revealed secrets of CCGS's website, plus Amy Smith shared a few tips about the copy machine. De Ann Wilson and Lillian Fullerton brought goodies to keep the energy flowing. (See the picture on our bulletin board at the library!)



Clark County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 5249
Vancouver WA 98668-5249

President: Garry Lucas
Co-vice Presidents: Doc & Carol Clark
Secretary: Steve Cornick

Treasurer: Larry Germann (acting)
Asst. Sec-Treas.: Cheryl Brooks
Past President: Diana Cruz

<http://www.ccg-wa.org>
Library: 717 Grand Blvd
360-750-5688

CCGS Meetings and Programs

- Apr. 1 First Thursday Unfocused Genealogy Group - 1:30 - 3:30, CCGS Library Annex
Apr. 5 Legacy Users Group - 10 am - noon, CCGS Library Annex
Apr. 5 Computer Clinic - beginning at 1 pm, CCGS Library Annex (FREE)
Apr. 6 Beginning & Refreshing Genealogy Class - 10 am - noon (FREE)
Apr. 10 British Isles Focus Group - 10:30 am - noon, CCGS Library
Apr. 12 CCGS Board Meeting - 9 am - 11am, CCGS Library Annex
Apr. 13 Working with Timelines Class - 10 - noon
Apr. 19 Cut & Paste work party - 10 am - 2 pm, CCGS Library Annex
Apr. 21 CCGS Newsletter deadline - copies to editor and co-editor please
Apr. 27 NO GENERAL MEETING THIS MONTH
May 1 Annual Spring Seminar - see web page for information
Oct. 3-10 Annual Salt Lake City Research Trip

General Meetings will be held the fourth Tuesday of the month at CCGS Library Annex.
Morning meetings: Oct - Mar, 10 am - noon. Evening meetings: Apr-Sept. 7 - 9 pm..
No General Meeting is usually held the month of the Spring Seminar, July, August, or December.

Notify Jeanine Bailiff, our Sunshine Lady, of anyone needing a card from CCGS such as get well, thinking of you, sympathy, etc. jbmb@pacifier.com or call Jeanine at 360-566-9422.